



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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McNARY WILDLIFE REFUGE FORMALLY ESTABLISHED

An area of 2,849.14 acres in Franklin and Walla Walla counties in Washington, near Pasco, officially has become a part of the national wildlife refuge system with the signing by Acting Secretary of the Interior Clarence A. Davis of the formal order establishing the McNary Wildlife Management Area.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has been negotiating for several years to acquire this area as a waterfowl refuge under the provisions of the Coordination Act of 1946. In December 1955 a cooperative agreement was concluded with the Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, giving administrative control of the area to the Service for wildlife management purposes. The lands are a portion of the McNary Lock and Dam Project on the Columbia River.

The refuge has been named in honor of the late Senator Charles L. McNary, of Oregon, because of his life-long interest in conservation. For a number of years the Senator was a member of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission which authorizes the purchase of land for waterfowl refuges from Federal duck stamp revenues.

The McNary area is strategically located in the Columbia River Valley about 125-miles air line from Lenore Lake, formerly a Federal refuge, but which is no longer of major significance in the flyway management program and has, therefore, been assigned to the State of Washington. About midway between Lenore Lake and McNary is the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge where development is now underway. Development of the upper Columbia Valley will have a pronounced effect on duck and geese, and provision is now being made through the new refuge units to meet the growing needs for migrant waterfowl as well as nesting populations.

The McNary Refuge will partially replace Columbia River islands, important resting sites for Canada geese, but which have been submerged by the McNary Dam in the Snake and Columbia Rivers. Geese began to use the refuge during the 1955

nesting season, and the 68 young birds produced in that year indicate the important role this area can play in the restoration of Canada geese after development is completed. The 700 acres of excellent waterfowl marsh at McNary will afford a feeding and resting ground for migrant birds. In addition, many acres of upland will be developed and planted to grow supplemental food for geese and ducks.

The McNary refuge complements an adjacent State area which is managed for public hunting and recreation. Portions of the Federal area may be opened to waterfowl hunting when bird populations are sufficient to warrant such action.

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